

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Government is taking appropriate measures to create a favourable investor-friendly climate for foreign investment particularly if that foreign investment will also bring modern technology and management practices and create new markets for products manufactured in the country.

Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rs.17026.77 crores has been approved during the period July, 1996 to October, 1996 which is 3.1/2 times more than Rs.4689.34 crores approved during the same period last year. Actual inflow during the same period in 1996 has increased to Rs.2402.05 crores as against Rs.2189.18 crores during the corresponding period last year.

From the above it is evident that the foreign investors confidence has increased substantially and they now see India as a destination for their investment. Hence the question of their going back does not arise.

[English]

Export of Poor Quality of Goods to Africa

3152. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in 'The Times of India' dated Nov.19, 1996 under the caption 'Indians send worst goods to Africa';

(b) whether a delegation of the Ugandan business community has visited India and criticised the inferior quality of Indian goods exported to Uganda by the Indian traders;

(c) if so, whether the Government have enquired into the allegations levelled in the meeting held in New Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any steps have been taken to improve the quality of goods to Africa; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (f). The Govt. have noted the news-item nomenclatured 'Indians send worst goods to Africa', which appeared in 'The Times of India' dated 19th Nov., 1996. While the confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi have invited a business delegation from Uganda, no specific complaint from ugandan importers against Indian exporters for export of sub-standard quality goods has come to the notice.

However, the following steps have been initiated to ensure export of quality goods by Indian exporters to overseas countries :-

- Prescription of quality standards for commodities notified under The Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963;
- Recognition of certain privation inspection agencies to supplement the work of quality certification;
- organisation of seminars and workshops to educate the manufacturers and exporters on the methods of maintaining quality including packaging.
- organisation of exhibitions abroad to show quality goods from the Indian industry;
- provision of assistance by Total Quality Management Division already set up in C II to its members on establishing quality related system in the manufacturing process registered under ISO 9000 series.

V.R.S. for Employees of R.B.I.

3153. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently worked out a voluntary retirement scheme for its officers/employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the RBI officers/employees thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve bank of India has reported that the terms of sub-regulations, 1948, an employees who has attained the age of 50 years may voluntarily retire after giving to the competent authority three months' notice in writing. Further, without prejudice to the Sub-regulation (3) above, an employees governed by Reserve Bank of India Pension Regulations, 1990 may voluntarily retire at any time after he has completed 20 years of qualifying service after giving to the competent authority three months' notice in writing.

(c) The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Purchasing through HEC

3154. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the equipments purchased from H.E.C. for Coal Companies during the last three years and the prices thereof, separately;

(b) whether equipments which are manufactured in H.E.C. are purchased from the Private Sector parties instead of procuring them from H.E.C.; and